NOVAPPLE Newsletter

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APPLEWORKS DATABASE WOES!

By Brendan Gallagher Hoar
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Alexandria, VA 22302
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Well, another long session stomping on bugs...but not killing them (so, I'm not a great programmer, sue me). Anyway, if I were, I might have missed some of these bugs! (probably shouldn't have said that!).

Anyway, hopefully this will someday get to Tom Weishaar (Open-Apple, by mail), Rupert Lissner (creator of AppleWorks, by modem at 702-831-1722), and/or the Applied Engineering technical support and programming departments (by mail). Lets start from the beginning...

Part I: The sob story.

Basically, I'm what Tom calls an intermediate computer user. Not an experienced programmer, not a beginner. I use my GS almost everyday for a variety of things, but mostly for telecommunications using local BBSs in my home town of Alexandria, Virginia (right next to D.C.) and other nearby cities. My father "employed" (implored?) me to create some nifty database files in AppleWorks this summer to allow him to automate billing customers to some degree...all info is entered at the end of the day from handwritten tickets and then saved and used for billing at the end of the month (saves a LOT of time!).

Well, a few days ago, my father called from his office and told me, in summary, that he couldn't get the invoicing file to load; that he had deleted the previous backup by mistake the very same morning; written another file over it (nope, UNDELETE won't work; the beginning of the file is written over!), and, finally, that the file was no longer on the desktop. All I could think of about was watching him have to do all of the tickets by hand, so I said to him, in summary, that if you bring all of the disks home from the office, I'll try to see if I can repair it. And that's how it all started...

Part II: How I fixed it.

Day 1.
First, I did all of the usual verification of the file in terms of readability by ProDOS, etc...and it checked out fine. Then, I took a look at all of the data in the file (knowing nothing at all about the format of an ADB file and its header information) and compared it to the file used in the previous month (same except different data entered for the tickets). I looked at the beginning of the header and both had the same format (not same values, but I assumed that if the data in the header was blown, I'd never be able to fix it blindly with a sector editor...) until the end of all the category names...but then I made the mistake of going ahead to the beginning of the ticket data (which was also looking good).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**** SIR-TECH IS COMING ****

Yes, Sir-Tech Software, the company who markets the famous Wizardry game will be visiting the Northern Virginia Apple Users group in March and all members of Novapple and the public are invited to this special meeting where Sir-Tech Software will be presenting their products. Because of the schedule requirements of the Sir-Tech representative, they will not be able to make one of our regular meetings.

Instead, we will be having a special Wednesday night meeting at 7:30 pm, March 30 at the Alexandria camps of the Northern Virginia Community College. The meeting will be held in the Bisdorf Bldg., room 110. To get to the college from I-295, get off at the route 7 west exit. Go about 1/2 mile and turn left immediately after passing a Merchants Tire Center on the left. Go about 50 yards to the Bisdorf Building on the left. Park in the "B" lots. Sir-Tech will be presenting their full line of products at this meeting.

Ms. Brenda Garno, the SIR-TECH representative, would like to hear some input from our members on what they would like to see. She is especially interested in hearing if there are any members that have completed some of the levels in Wizardry. Let's give Ms Garno all the support we can.

If you have any suggestions for what you would like to see presented, call Dave Harvey at 578-4621 or leave a message for him on the Pro-novapple system or the club phone at (301) 899-4005.

--NoVA

INTRODUCING BINARY II

A File Format for Uploading and Downloading.

By Steve Muncy
Apple Corps of Dallas.

THE PROBLEM

Transfering files to and from information services such as Compuserve, The Source and GENie have long been an important method of distributing public domain and user supported software. Thousands of important utilities, very playable games and excellent applications programs are available from the 'host' computers of these services. Unfortunately, uploading and downloading files from host computers can be frustrating and time consuming.

Important information about all Apple II files is stored in the disk directory, not in the file itself. Under ProDOS, the file type, length of the file, dates created and modified and other important information are stored in the disk directory. Most current telecommunications software for the Apple II contain provisions for sending and receiving files by a special "protocol" method to allow two users to exchange files. When files are sent using such a special protocol, the important file information (called "attributes" are included and saved in the disk directory.

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Apple Discounts
from VF Associates

SPECIAL OF THE MONTH:
FINGERPRINT AUTOMATIC GRAPHICS PARALLEL PRINTER CARD:
$59.00

MACINTOSH CORNER
- DS/DD DISKS, BOX OF 10 .. $12.00
- DS/DD DISKS, CASE OF 50 . $55.00
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- 36 DISK STORAGE BOX $9.00
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- 2-NOTCH/DS/DD, PAK OF 25 . $13.00
- 2-NOTCH/DS/DD, CASE OF 100 . $45.00
- 10 DISKETTE CASES ..... $2.25 EACH 5 for $10.00

(SPECIFY COLOR CHOICES: BEIGE, BLACK, BLUE, GREEN, GREY, RED, YELLOW)

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- CITIZEN 120-D $179.00
- STAR NX-1000 ..... $199.00
- PANASONIC 1080i/2 ..... $209.00 *
- PANASONIC 1091i/2 ..... $239.00 *
- CITIZEN MSP-15e, WIDE ... $399.00
- PANASONIC P3131, LQ .... $349.00 *
- NEC P6, LQ $495.00

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- 64K, SET OF 8 ..... $36.00 *
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- PLUSWORKS (RUNS APPLEWORKS ON II+) $19.00
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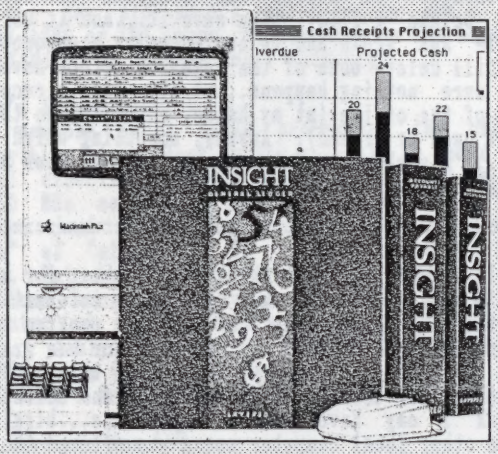

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•Tysons Store•
Thursday, March 24, 1-3PM
•Laurel Store•
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Thursday, April 21, 1-3PM
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•Calverton/Beltsville, MD•
Thur, March 31, 10AM, 2PM
(Call Pam at 953-1110 to register)

•Clinton, MD•
Thur, April 14, 10AM, 2PM
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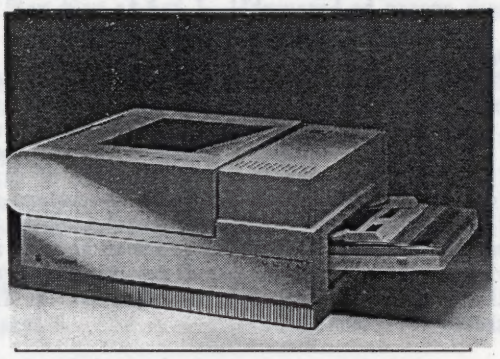

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CLINTON COMPUTER offers NovAPPLE members a 25% DISCOUNT OFF THE LIST PRICE on all non-allocated Apple brand peripherals (no CPU's), software and AppleCare. For upgrades, the 25% discount applies to both the parts and normal labor rate. Discount is available to persons who have been members for at least 3 months. Discount cannot be applied retroactively. Members need to present their cards up-front. No phone or mail orders, please. Discount cannot be used in combination with other promotions. Products on allocation from Apple are excluded from this offer. Clinton Computer reserves the right to change this policy at any time.

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APPLEWORKS FROM PAGE 1

I couldn't seem to find anything wrong with it, either. It JUST SO HAPPENED that all of my backorders (almost 3 years worth) of the great newsletter (Open-Apple) arrived that day...so after spending hours with my GS and the ADB file, I went over to my father's house (I was staying there that night) and decided to put my homework off and read some of the issues of Open-Apple. Lo and behold, in the March issue (I think), there was a great article on reading ADB files from BASIC...since I didn't have access to the GS (and I did have access to homework!), I had to wait until the next day.

Day 2.
When I arrived at home after school, I put the program to good use...after more than an hour (I lost track) I had both typed in and debugged (well, de-typoed, anyway) the program from the may issue. I promptly ran the program on the ADB file and for record #1, I got a couple of garbled categories (not the names, just the data) and information from record #10! So, one of the pointers showing where the data started was confused. I then, after hours of this and that, with a block editor looked at the first few blocks and noticed that there were TWO report formats and not the THREE that I knew should have been there.

I remembered mention in Tom's article of a byte in the ADB file MAIN HEADER (first 357 bytes is the MAIN HEADER then 24 categories * 22 bytes/category + X report formats * 600 bytes/report format is the only information before the actual file data), byte 38 (0 is first byte), and therefore I checked it. It said that there were THREE report formats. I promptly changed it to a TWO and (drum roll, please!) when I tried to reload the file back into AppleWorks, it WORKED!

At my father's office, we use an enhanced //e (with 576K RamWorks III, a Street Electronics BusinessCard (2 serial/1 clock), a TransWarp (never had problems mentioned by other Open-Apple readers, and a test program that fails on some other problem boards worked fine on mine), and a DuoDisk (with a supposedly bug free board - had it replaced because it kept on eating my MCS every time BA sent me a new one!). The software is AppleWorks 2.0, Applied Engineerings Desktop Expander 2.0.1 (maybe the culprit in this case, probably in the next bug I found which you'll end up reading about later), and RESET.SYSTEM (a relatively current version - from Living Legends Software - adds reset trapping to AppleWorks - shareware - I haven't paid for it though, but I will, honest!) which is seldom if ever needed (not at all responsible for the bug, I am sure).

What stumped me was the missing report format. When I asked my father if he had erased it, he said, in summary, that he had activated the "Erase a Report Format" function, but had not actually picked a format, instead he had pressed escape to exit. I figured I better try it out. I made a BACKUP of the file (whew!) and did just what he did. I saved it and tried to reload it and it WOULD NOT LOAD. The EXACT same problem (counter=3, report formats=2). So I figure this is what happens. AppleWorks 2.0 (modified by AE AWEXP 2.0.1) for some reason has some internal counter or pointer changed when you choose the "Erase Format" function, but BEFORE you actually choose one to delete.

ESCaping out of the function leaves that pointer or counter changed. Another counter which keeps track of the total # of formats is still the same, but the pointer or counter that is changed must be related to the # of formats save in the file to disk. Anyway, I have yet to try it on an unmodified version of Appleworks because of three reasons: First, I cannot load the file (too big) on the //e at the office, second, I am out of blank disks at home to make a backup of the original AppleWorks 2.0 to try it with, and thirdly, I can't find the original fixed file (I now have a backup of it that is segmented onto two disks since more data has been added).

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Another bug I found may be caused by the AE expander. When the disk had only 1K left (all the room was taken up by the fixed file), we tried to save using the open apple-S command and the save function from the main menu (both of which ask you if it is ok to delete original first). It seemed to save fine, but the disk got screwed up royally...0K left, AppleWorks hangs when you try to load the file, and if you delete the file, the disk has a screwed up bitmap and maybe more buggy directory info (haven't checked...haven't wanted to!). I tried reformatting the disk, saving to the disk (ok), then saving again (which prompts for Ok to delete original) and got the buggy results again.

What I figure is the the Expander thinks the file has become a segmented file (only if you delete the original) and does something to it, but ProDOS or AppleWorks doesn't agree or something is buggy on a marginally pre-segmented file save (almost ready to be segmented, but not quite). We found a work around, though. We delete the original (5. Other activities, 4. Delete a file), then save it...and it works fine...(the file has grown and is now actually a segmented file, but we still delete both of the segments before saving just to make sure nothing happens...we also have a recent backup OUTSIDE of the office (at my house, actually) so that it doesn't get used or erased). Anyway, something weird is going on here...I'm pushing my father to get a hard disk and that will probably get rid of bug #2...

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Anyway, I would really like to thank Tom Weishaar for his information (I'm going to get all the header information from one of the sources you mentioned) and his program and his terrific newsletter! Also, Mr. Lissner for his great program (which probably is not at fault in this case), Applied Engineering for their great peripherals and software (though I think I may have found a couple bugs...biggies too), and some other local computer users who offered their help to me in this crisis...

Able to be reached by modem at:
[The Apple Pack BBS] (User #5)
The East-Coast GBBS support board/SysOp Ron Gabbert
(703)370-4223
-OR-
Pro-Novapple (bhoar@pro-novapple)
Northern Virginia Apple Users' Group
(703)352-5842

P.S. Though it doesn't really seem to make a difference in the computer world and especially the world of telecommunications, I am 17 years old and a senior in high school.

P.P.S. Acronyms...a necessary evil. I just realized, while writing this letter, that ADB can mean two things: AppleWorks Database File - in ProDOS directory listings Apple Desktop Bus.

--NoVA8

VAPORWARE

From Murphy Sewall

From the March 1988 APPLE PULP
H.U.G.B. Apple Club (E. Hartford) News Letter
$15/year,P.O. Box 18027,East Hartford, CT 06118

Mac II+ (or Mac III).
Although the 68030 version of the Macintosh won't arrive until next year (see last November and December's columns), rumors about what the machine will be like exist already. Look for a 68882 math coprocessor, 8 Mbytes of RAM, and a 151 Mbyte hard disk (with A/Ux taking 30 Mbytes). The new system will be priced at about the level of today's Mac II, and the SE will be discontinued (to be replaced by the Mac II). However, system software to really take full advantage of the new processor's capabilities won't be introduced until 1990 or '91 (hmmm, sounds like an IBM move).
- InfoWorld 25 January and 1 February.

Blue's Future Looks Rosy.
The awesome Intel 80486 processor, the chip that does everything (see last July's column), is ahead of schedule. Intel expects to introduce a 25 MHz version in late '89 with a 50 MHz model to follow as early as 1990. The 486 should arrive just about when needed. IBM has revealed a "game plan" of "migration" in which price categories remain the same, but hardware performance is upgraded. Current 8086 machines soon will be replaced by 80286 models, and an 80386 computer at the Model 60's present price will appear in the Fall. Analysts envision an 80386 PS/2 clone for less than $1,000 early in the next decade.
- PC Week 9 February and InfoWorld 15 February.

Mac Hardware for '88.
The "LapMac" from Apple continues to be a phantom because Apple still isn't happy with the quality of the display technology. Apple chairman John Sculley has indicated that the "Mac SE 40" (a 2 Mbyte RAM with 40 Mbyte, 28 millisecond access hard drive SE) and a lower priced Mac II (priced at roughly $5,000 and $6,000 respectively) will be introduced later this year. Either or both machines also will sport Apple's newest, 1.6 Mbyte, 3.5 inch floppy drive.
- InfoWorld 1 and 15 February and Random Access 23 January.

Sun Killer.
Sony Corporation is entering the scientific work station market with the NWS-841 (to be known as the "News") a 16-MHz 68020 box with a 68881 math coprocessor, 8 Mbytes of RAM, a 1.44 Mbyte 3.5 inch floppy drive, a 286 Mbyte hard disk and six I/O ports, including an Ethernet interface. The operating system will be Unix, and the initial retail price will be $19,900.
- InfoWorld 1 February.

What NeXt?
When last heard from (January's column), Steve Job's NeXt Computer would arrive sometime this Spring (a scheduled February intro was postponed until April, or was it June? Seeing is believing). Rumor has it that software likely to be available with the introduction will be Aldus's PageMaker, Write Now, Word Perfect, Microsoft Word, and Excel - so far, no database.
- InfoWorld 25 January.

Hyper in Only 512K.
Hyper DA will let let owners of 512K Macintoshes use (some) Hypercard applications. The program uses a subset of the Hypertalk scripting language to squeeze stackware into the smallish RAM.
- Random Access 23 January.

Enhanced A/Ux.
Only 5 percent of existing Macintosh software will run under the new Unix operating system without modification. At least 25 companies already have announced A/Ux compatible products. Meanwhile, plans to improve the operating system are well underway. Among the improvements: eliminating the need to reboot when switching between A/Ux and Mac System, support for color applications, and allowing more than one program to run on-screen at any time.
- InfoWorld 15 February.

Excel-erating.
Microsoft recently demonstrated its upcoming version 1.5 of Excel for the Macintosh that supports color, runs in background mode under Multifinder, and includes user - definable menus. Late this year, version 2.0 will be released with increased memory support, multiple fonts in a sheet, cell notes, variable row heights, and sparse memory management.
- InfoWorld 1 February.

Mainframe Software Migration to A/Ux.
Ingres 5.0, Relational Technology's fully relational database, which runs on DEC VAX's and IBM System/3X minicomputers will be offered in an Apple Macintosh Unix version.
- PC Week 2 February.

Display Postscript on the Mac?
Apple vice president, Jean-Louis Gassee has indicated that Apple has no plans to include Adobe's Display Postscript in the Mac's system software. Instead, the company plans to enhance Quickdraw (see following item).
- InfoWorld 25 January.

Quicker on the Draw (Find the Hidden Vaporware).
Software wizard Andy Hertzfeld has improved the color Quickdraw code for the Mac II. His 5K revision of parts of the system software can improve the speed of some graphics operations by as much as a factor of three in some applications. Hertzfeld has offered the improved Quickdraw code to Apple, and it may be included in September's planned update of Mac systems software (did you catch that? There's going to be an update of Mac System in September). Hertzfeld's routine also may be uploaded to Compuserve in the near future.
- InfoWorld 25 January.

OS/3.
Microsoft expects to release a multitasking operating system specifically tailored for 80386 computers next year. Among the more dramatic new features will be an "enhanced intelligent file system" and support for a multi-processor PC.
- Random Access 6 February.

MS-DOS 3.4.
IBM will soon end confusion between the PC's DOS and the old Apple II version by releasing DOS 3.4. The most obvious new feature is an optional user-shell with pull-down menus, windows, and help screens (text, not icon based). The shell can be controlled either by keyboard or mouse and contains many features commonly found in hard disk file manager programs.
- PC Week 2 February.

Artificially Intelligent Mac.
Apple and Texas Instruments are close to announcing a Lisp chip that will turn a Mac II into a (relatively) low-priced (at about $8,000) artificial intelligence delivery system. Lisp processing currently is performed on TI's Explorer II systems (at $40,000 to $100,000). Lisp for the Mac also will come with a high-performance add-in board to let Apple offer low-cost symbolic processing for AI applications.
- InfoWorld 1 February.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

PRO-NOVAPPLE SYSTEM - COMMAND LIST QUICK REFERENCE CARD

MAIN COMMAND [Command:]

C = Conference System
M = Mail (Read Mail)
S = Send (private mail)
D = Data Library
W = Who (user list)
T = Time
N = News files
P = Page SysOp
E = Exit to csh‡
I = Info about the system
B = Bye (hangup)

‡ = Registered users only

CONFERENCE SYSTEM [c:]

N = Next conf - (C/R) also
J = Join a conference
R = Resign from a conf
S = Show info
 S)how L)ist of conferences
 S)how U)nread msg summary
 S)how J)oined conferences
 S)how I)nfo on a conference
 S)how C)lipboard file
Q = Quit conference system
B = Bye (hangup)
- = Display time and date

READ COMMANDS [r:]

A = Add (post) a new message
B = Back to last read message
C = Comment (reply) to <msg>
D = Delete <msg> (yours only)
H = Headers <msg>
J = Join a topic in this conf
Q = Quit this conf/topic
N = Next unread msg - (C/R) also
O = Original msg of a comment
R = Resign from this conf
S = Skip to <msg>
T = Type <msg>
W = Where am I?
X = Send <msg> using XMODEM
- = Display date and time

<msg> arguments

C = Last accessed msg
N = Next, current msg + 1
P = Previous, current msg -1
F = First message
L = Last message
A = All messages
O = Original msg of a comment
U = Unread messages
3 = Message number 3
-3 = Messages from 1 to 3
3- = Messages from 3 to end
3-9 = Messages from 3 to 9

ADD MSG COMMANDS [a:]

I = Input, add more text
L = List the message
E = Edit the message
S = Save the message
Q = Quit, cancel message
C = Clear and start over
M = Merge clipboard or
    original message

SEND MAIL COMMANDS [s:]

I = Input, add more text
L = List the letter
E = Edit the letter
S = Send the letter
Q = Quit, cancel letter
F = File, append a file to ltr
W = Word wrap ON/OFF
V = List msg variables
C = Cc, send Carbon Copies
B = Bc, send Blind Copies

MISCELLANEOUS COMMANDS

? = Help, show command list - from any prompt
^D = Logout, hangup from rsh or csh command prompts

MAIL SYSTEM [m:]

H = Print <letters> one line headers
L = List all your letters
N = Display the next letter
P = Display the previous letter
T = Type <letters>
S = Send a letter
F = Forward <letters> to others
C = Send comment (reply) to <letters>
D = Delete <letters>
M = Move <letters> to a file
U = Undelete <letters>
V = List all your defined variables
Q = Quit mail system
- = Display date and time

<letters> arguments

A = All of the letters
C = Current (Last letter typed) or (C/R)
N = Next letter
P = Previous letter
F = First letter (oldest)
L = Most recent letter
2 = Letter no. 2
2-9 = Letters 2 thru 9 (inclusive)
-9 = First letter thru letter 9
2- = Letter 2 thru the last letter

EDITOR COMMANDS [e:]

A = Add text to end of buffer
C = Change part of <lines>
D = Delete <lines>
F = Find <pattern>
I = Insert text at <line>
L = List <lines> with numbers
P = List <lines> w/o numbers
R = Read a file into buffer
Q = Quit, SAVE changes
X = Exit, CANCEL changes

<lines> arguments

A = All lines
F = First line
L = Last line
. = (period) Last accessed line
3 = Line number 3
-3 = Lines from 1 to 3
3- = Lines from 3 to end
3-9 = Lines from 3 to 9

VAPORWARE FROM PAGE 5

50 Mbytes on a 3.5 Inch Disk.
Verbatim Corporation is developing an erasable magneto-optical drive that will store 50 Mbytes on a single sided (initially) 3.5 media (only slightly larger than current 3.5 inch diskettes). The anticipated price will be under $2,400.
- InfoWorld 25 January.

High Performance Hard Drives.
Next month Microscience International will unveil a series of 3.5 inch hard drives with capacities ranging from 40 Mbytes to 100 Mbytes and access times averaging under 20 milliseconds. The 100 Mbyte drive will be available in versions with high speed SCSI and ESDI interfaces.
- InfoWorld 1 February.

Faster Laser Printers.
Adobe Systems says that development of Display Postscript will soon result in the release of a faster page description language for laser printers. The new release will be able to support printers capable of 60 to 80 pages per minute. Meanwhile, the Postscript clone printers will offer faster rivers which will considerably improve the realized print speed of existing desktop publishing software. Alas, these faster new printers won't be any less expensive than the current, approximately, $4,000 models.
- PC Week 9 February.

dBase IV (Continuing Saga).
Ashton-Tate's new dBase with SQL (query language) looks like it will be a winner when it finally arrives. The drawback is that the existing code is still bug-laden, and chances of making the (currently) scheduled March 31 delivery date do not look good (latest guess is June).
- PC Week 2 and 16 February.

Will IBM Pay Royalties to Apple?
A little over two years ago, Microsoft signed a secret (well secretive anyway) pact with Apple conceding that the "look and feel" of Windows was derived from the Macintosh display. It is possible that agreement may lead to a claim by Apple for royalty payments on the IBM Presentation Manager (maybe that's why the planned $795 price is so steep).
- InfoWorld 25 January.

New MS-DOS Word Processors.
Palantir Software should become the first third-party vendor to ship an OS/2 application when "HoustonText" (a temporary codename) is released at the end of the month. Palantir's word processor will carry the same $495 price tag expected for DisplayWrite 4/2 which IBM will ship in the second quarter. Word Perfect 5.0 with a command for integrating graphics into a document and expanded memory support should arrive this month. Lotus's Manuscript also will be upgraded to include macros, integrated downloading of fonts, and automatic worksheet import. Both programs will support numerous "standard" graphics file formats.
- InfoWorld 1 February, PC Week 2 February, and Random Access 6 February.

Expert Shopping System.
Decision Sciences Professor Thomas A. Williams at the Rochester Institute of Technology has developed "expert system" software to advise consumers about running shoes, washing machines, automobiles and the like. The system makes recommendations by matching product characteristics with answers to questions about personal characteristics, preferences, and price ranges. For example, a running shoe brand would be recommended on the basis of the anatomy of the consumers' feet, how often and how long they run, and the kind of terrain they run on. Williams isn't sure there is a market for his program; he says "the typical consumer does not approach a purchasing decision in a logical fashion."
- Business Week 7 December.

But When Will There Be a Modem For It?
Researchers at Bellcor, and R&D center for the seven regional Bell companies, reports it has set a record for moving data across a single optical fiber. Bellcor engineers were able to send 27 billion bits of information per second (that's 27 gigabaud) through a hair thin fiber using 18 different laser beams (each on a different wavelength).
- Random Access 19 December.

When it Starts Complaining, it's Finished.
Scientists at NEC say they've made progress on a neuron computer based on parallel processing. By the end of the year, they hope to have a working prototype using four processors to simulate a neural network. The eventual goal is to form a net of 128 processors and simulate the action of eight million human brain cells.
- Random Access 26 December.

--NoVA

ZIP CHIPS: JUST THE FACTS

By Paul Statt
From March InCider,1988.

The saga of the Zip Chip, an accelerator card on a chip introduced at AppleFest in September 1987, continues. Here are the facts as we see them in December 1987:

Zip Technology, 11340 West Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90064, used to be known as M.C.T.

M.C.T, 1745 21st Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404, also known as Micro Computer Technologies and "McToy," last advertised in 'inCider' in March of 1985. The product was the SpeedDemon accelerator card.

The SpeedDemon, unlike other accelerator cards, replaces the Apples's 65C02 microprocessor with a faster 65C02 microprocessor and some random-access memory for caching. But it was, and is, a peripheral card that requires a slot.

On April 15, 1985, M.C.T. agreed with David Hewitson and Ronan Electronics, 31300 Via Colinas, Westlake Village, CA 91362, to put the SpeedDemon card on a chip. The technique's called very-large-scale integration, and means more computing power in a smaller chip.

During AppleFest in San Francisco, September 10-15, 1987, Zip Technology, at an AppleFest booth, showed an Apple IIc running at four times its standard speed. No Zip Chips were seen, but many orders were taken. A Zip spokesman told 'inCider' that the Zip Chip would be available in "two or three days."

On September 12, David Hewitson, now representing Bits and Pieces Technology, 31332 Via Colinas, Westlake Village, CA 91362, showed 'inCider', in private, the Rocket Chip. What we actually saw was a board board four times the size of an Apple IIc, connected to a Apple IIc, that made it run at four times its regular speed. Hewitson said he had formerly been involved with Zip Technology, but that the Rocket Chip was his own design.

In December 1987, neither Zip nor Rocket Chips were available. Shipment is expected by the time you read this (March 1988), but we strongly encourage you to call and ask about availability first. The number for Bit and Pieces is (818) 706-2978; Zip's number is (213) 473-7662. While both companies proved to be cooperative with 'inCider', neither wanted to speak on the record.

(Note: On page 35 of inCider, a full page ad displays Zip Technology offering their "ZIPCHIP II-4" for the introductory offer price of $129.00.)

--NoVA

BINARY II FROM PAGE 1

If you want to send a file to another Apple II owner, and BOTH SENDER AND RECEIVER ARE USING THE SAME COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM, you can usually send any type of file by modem - an Applesoft, binary, system or text file. The received file is automatically saved to disk and is ready to run. Simple and painless.

Unfortunately, this method will not work when sending and receiving files from the large host computers of Compuserve, The Source, etc. While the host computers can accept the file's binary data sent by many protocol methods (such as XMODEM), they have not implemented provisions for accepting the important file attributes that are necessary to run the program.

To get around this limitation, Apple II files have traditionally been transferred by modem to host computers by sending an ASCII text file, the same type of file you create and read with a text editor or word processor. This works fine for text files, but is much more cumbersome for Applesoft and binary program files and ProDOS system files. For these files to be transmitted to the host computer (called "uploading"), they must first be converted to text files and saved by the host as ASCII text files. When receiving such files, you will "download" the text file from the host computer, save it as an ASCII text file, and then re-convert it to its original file type by issuing the command "EXEC Filename".

This procedure is often difficult and results in text files that are much larger than the original file, costing more money and time when uploading and downloading.

THE SOLUTION

Apple II wizard Gary Little, author of "Apple ProDOS: Advanced Features for Programmers", "Inside the Apple //e" and the Point-to-Point telecommunications program published by Pinpoint Publishing, has suggested a solution that is already being accepted by many.

Little has recommended a new file format for a binary encoded file that will contain file attributes as well as file data. This format, called BINARY II, is roughly based on the same concept used in MacBinary, a file format used extensively by Macintosh users for several years.

Certain conventions should be followed in using the Binary II format for uploading and downloading:

1) All Binary II format files should end with an extension of BNY - for example MYFILE.BNY.

2) Use a special protocol to send or receive the file in binary format. Normally you would probably use Xmodem, supported by most communications software for the Apple II. Using Xmodem also offers several other advantages over the ASCII text file transfer method. XModem gives 99.9% accuracy because of built-in error checking. In addition, using the XModem protocol will save the file in "chunks" automatically. You no longer need a large capture buffer and avoid the problem of overflowing your capture buffer.

Ideally, future communications software will automatically convert program files to be sent in Binary II format when sent by Xmodem or other special protocol transfer. Since this is not yet the case, files to be uploaded and downloaded in Binary II format must still be converted into Binary II format. BASIC programs to accomplish this simple task are in the program libraries on Compuserve (MAUG - Telecommunications Data Library), and the Apple II download section of the Apple Corps of Dallas BBS.

(The files are named BI2UP.EXE and BI2DWN.EXE and are text files that you must EXEC to create the BASIC BINARY.UP and BINARY.DWN program files.)

A nice feature of the Binary II format is the ability to string multiple files into one Binary II file. I recently downloaded one Binary II file that contained almost a full disk's worth of data. When reconverted using the BINARY.DWN program, six separate files were automatically saved to disk.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

Binary II format has much to commend it for transfering files to/from information service host computers. The advantages of this format are:

1) MUCH shorter files resulting in less online time and less cost in uploading and downloading and less storage space requirement on disks.

2) Use of XModem (or other special protocol) resulting in much greater accuracy in communication (approx. 99.9% accurate) and built-in error checking.

3) Automatically saved to disk in smaller chunks, eliminating need for large capture buffer or concern about overflowing capture buffer.

4) Ability to string together multiple files into one Binary II file.

Binary II files are now in the data libraries of MAUG (Micro-Networked Apple Users Group) on Compuserve and may be on The Source as well. To try downloading these files, look for those files with the .BNY extension.

--NoVA

TEMPORARY RELIEF FROM CALL WAITING....

From Tony McClenny
Sysop - The Virginia Connection RBBS: (703) 648-1841

Some telephone systems currently allow the user of the call waiting service the ability to manually disconnect the function when it is not desired. All the systems have not implemented the disconnect function as of this time. If your system has not done so, call them and request the anticipated date of this new and exciting function.

If you are using a modem and have call waiting service, you know what a major problem it can be when after downloading or uploading 1,149 blocks of an 1,150 block file the call waiting function beeps and disconnects you without that one little necessary block of data.

To temporarily cancel the call waiting function, follow the below instructions:

On a 12 button telephone:	Dial	*70
On a 10 button telephone:	Dial	1170
On a rotary telephone:	Dial	1170

Then dial the number you want to call - no interruptions!

If you wish to disconnect the call waiting function during a call, follow the below instructions:

Ask the other party to hold for a moment. Press the disconnect button and listen for the dial tone.

Dial the sequence shown above for the various units. You will hear various tones after which you will be connected back with party you were previously speaking with.

Call waiting will be automatically reactivated when you complete the call and hang up the handset.

--NoVA

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SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

REGULAR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

1st Saturday -- Room 110 or 120, Bisdorf Bldg, Alex Campus NoVA CC - 10:00 AM
3rd Wednesday -- Room No.1, FAIRLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER
3300 S. Stafford Street in Arlington - 7:30 PM

	Saturday	Feb	6	10:00 AM	NVCC	Open Meeting Schedule
	Wednesday	Feb	17	7:30 PM	FCC	APPLES & TAIES

	Saturday	Mar	5	10:00 AM	NVCC	ANNUAL MARCH SWAP-MEET!!!
###	SPECIAL					###
###	Wednesday	Mar	30	7:30 PM	NVCC	SIR-TECH SOFTWARE MEETING ###
###	Meeting			at the Bisdorf Bldg. in room 110.		###

	Saturday	Apr	2	10:00 AM	NVCC	Call the club phone for the latest info
	Wednesday	Apr	20	7:30 PM	FCC	HYPER-CARD DEMO

CLUB PHONE (Answering machine with announcements - will record your messages.) (301) 899-4005
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(On the PRO-NOVAPPLE BBS, send Newsletters articles, letters, or ideas & info
(to Chuck Edmiston (usr ID = CHE) or to the Newsletter address down below.)

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Diskette Orders: . . . . . NOVAPPLE, 6069 Wooten Drive, Falls Church, VA. 22044
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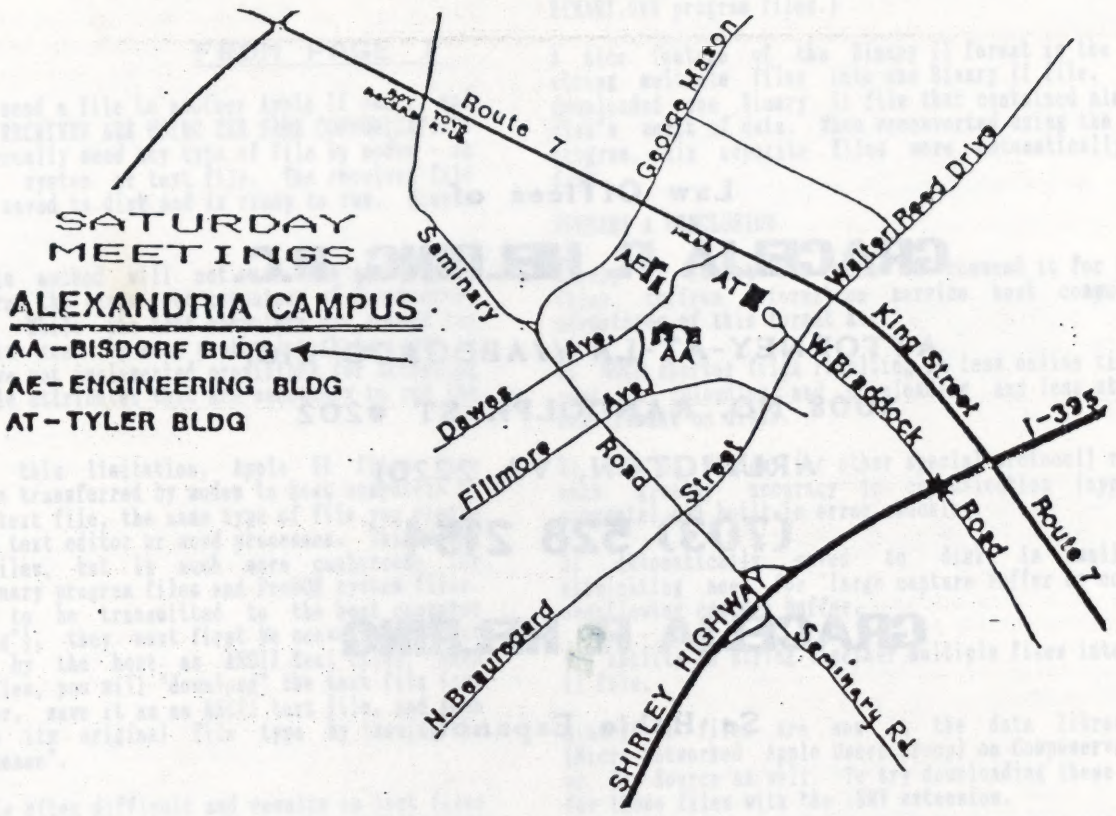

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